

From: Richard Molen
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft sanctions

Justice Dept.,

Nothing less than dividing Microsoft's operating system group from its applications group will ensure that they don't use tactics such as inventing non-standard standards (and not properly sharing them).

Their development tools division should probably become a third group (or at least in the application group). This is what has given them an unfair

advantage over application software vendors. They will continue to have

this advantage even with full-disclosure of their 'standard' interfaces due to the fact that they will have first knowledge of them.

Furthermore, I do not believe that they will properly share all information needed for a competitor to properly interface to their software.

Current Microsoft practice continues to assert Microsoft 'standards' in place of existing ones, even while this case is in court! C# is one of the latest examples of this.

From the business side, one has to wonder what legal competitive advantage a non-disclosure agreement has to offer. Microsoft certainly abused this medium and should be summarily punished for it by preventing them from making any more such agreements.

While I admire Microsoft's business vision of selling flashy, mediocre software to the largest, if not most technically ignorant, population, I still have to wonder just how much Microsoft's success has set back the software industry. IBM's OS/2 and various unix operating systems as well as some well designed real-time operating systems still offer greater robustness and easier operation and troubleshooting than MS Window's.

My fear is that Microsoft's flashy system and sleazy business practices will continue to obscure superior operating systems (like it obscured OS/2 Warp). Their applications will still be preferred over competitors, even if their competitors do actually get the correct interface information, if only because the Microsoft product will be perceived to work more seamlessly.

In the end, it is my hope that the Justice Department dispenses true justice, not just a slap on the hand of Microsoft that kicks all their

competitors in the teeth and ruthlessly manipulates an unsavvy public.

Sincerely,

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